

App. No. 10/605,519
Amendment dated September 14, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 14, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A ceramic susceptor including a temperature gauge for gauging the temperature of a temperature-gauging site in a gauging subject article subjected to temperature gauging, the temperature gauge comprising:
a thermocouple having a tip end;
a temperature-gauging contact exposed in the tip end of said thermocouple and contacting, exposed as it is, the temperature-gauging site in the gauging subject article; and
detachable retaining means for mechanically pressing upon said temperature-gauging contact to retain it against the temperature-gauging site.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A temperature gauge as set forth in claim 1, wherein said retaining means is a retaining member that either screws together with or is screwlocked into the gauging subject article, for clamping said temperature-gauging contact in between said retaining member and the gauging subject article.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A temperature gauge as set forth in claim 2, female threads being provided in the gauging subject article, wherein said retaining member is a circularly cylindrical form having male threads in its lateral surface for screwing said retaining member together with the female threads in the gauging subject article so that one end face of the retaining member presses said temperature-gauging contact onto the gauging subject article.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A temperature gauge as set forth in claim 3, wherein the other end face of said circularly cylindrical retaining member has a

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groove for being turned by a turning tool when said retaining member is screwed together with the gauging subject article.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): A temperature gauge as set forth in claim 2, female screws being provided in a surface of the gauging subject, wherein said retaining member has, along one end thereof, a flange portion provided with threaded holes for screwlocking said retaining member into the female screws in the gauging subject article.

Claim 6 (original): A temperature gauge as set forth in claim 2, wherein the retaining member has a through-hole penetrating from one end face to the other end face thereof so that lead lines from the thermocouple can be passed into the through-hole.

Claim 7 (original): A temperature gauge as set forth in claim 2, wherein said retaining member in an end face thereof is furnished with a recess into which a communicating through-hole opens, so that said temperature-gauging contact in the thermocouple tip and lead lines accompanying said contact can be housed in the recess.

Claim 8 (original): A temperature gauge as set forth in claim 7, wherein the recess in depth measures less than the thermocouple lead lines in diameter.

Claim 9 (original): A temperature gauge as set forth in claim 2, further comprising a tubular member, either joined to or furnished integrally with an end face of said retaining member opposite where said temperature-gauging contact is clamped, for accommodating lead lines from said thermocouple.

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Claim 10 (original): A temperature gauge as set forth in claim 2, further comprising a sealing member for sealing gastight either an end face of said retaining member opposite where said temperature-gauging contact is clamped, or sealing distal-endwise a tubular member joined to or otherwise furnished integrally with said retaining member.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A temperature gauge as set forth in claim 2, wherein the thermal expansion coefficient of said retaining member is about equal to the thermal expansion coefficient of the gauging subject article.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): Semiconductor manufacturing equipment furnished with a ceramic susceptor as recited in claim ~~[[12]]~~ 1.

Claim 14 (New): A temperature gauge for gauging the temperature of a temperature-gauging site in a gauging subject article subjected to temperature gauging, the temperature gauge comprising:

- a thermocouple having a tip end;
- a temperature-gauging contact exposed in the tip end of said thermocouple and contacting, exposed as it is, the temperature-gauging site in the gauging subject article; and

- a detachable retaining member that either screws together with or is screwlocked into the gauging subject article, for directly mechanically pressing upon said temperature-gauging contact to clamp it in between an endface of said retaining member and the temperature-gauging site in the gauging subject article.